

## SENATE...No. 10.

---

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

---

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 24th, 1844.

*His Excellency*, GEORGE N. BRIGGS, *Governor*.

SIR,—I have been requested as one of a Committee of the New York Historical Society to forward to the Executives of several of the States memorials from that Society, requesting copies of the Legislative Documents of the respective States. In compliance with that request, I have the honor to enclose a memorial to the Massachusetts Legislature, with the request that you will lay it before them at the earliest opportunity.

With the highest respect,

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

HAMILTON FISH.

*To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of Massachusetts :*

This Memorial of the New York Historical Society respectfully sheweth :

This Society was founded in 1804, and incorporated by a charter from the State Legislature, for the purpose of collecting the various documents illustrative of the history of this country, and rendering them available alike to the student and to the man of business. Fostered by some liberal grants from the State and many valuable donations from individuals, the Society now possesses one of the largest and most valuable historical libraries in the country. It is free from debt, and its library, containing about 13,000 volumes, is placed in appropriate apartments in the New York University, and daily open to every individual who may wish to avail himself of it.

Under these circumstances, anxious to obtain all the accessible materials which relate to the transactions of the present time, and well knowing that it is to the reports and documents of the several State Legislatures, that we must look for authentic information respecting the finances and internal improvements, statistics of education and of crime, and many other highly interesting and important subjects of inquiry, the New York Historical Society respectfully prays this honorable Legislature to grant them the privilege of having a copy of all the documents which may be published by order of the Legislature, and also of any documents heretofore published, of which there may remain any disposable copies : all which the Society on its part will think itself bound to preserve as part of the historical records of the day, and under such regulations as will enable every individual to have access to them for information.

Resting its claims upon its almost national character, and

trusting to the liberal intelligence of the members of the Legislature, the Society ventures to anticipate a generous compliance with the Prayer of this Petition.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

ALBERT GALLATIN, *President.*

Attest: JOHN JAY, *Recording Secretary.*

Dated, NEW YORK, *March 8th*, 1844.

